1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Tripura	55	35	20	20	-	-
16.	Uttar Pradesh	205	205	80	80	215	140
17.	West Bengal	45	45	-	-	-	-
		1160	1160	753	753	1600	1285

Acceptance of Payments by FCI

1682. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FCI has directed its regional offices throughout the country that no transaction whatsoever in the form of acceptance of paying deposits including bank guarantee, demand draft and deposits at all receipts issued by the Punjab National Bank shall take place until further orders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Punjab National Bank has stopped honouring bank guarantee in favour of FCI;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(e) whether this has caused great hindrance in pushing the additional stock of rice and wheat from the FCI godowns to deficit States; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to ensure the supply of additional stocks to the deficit States in due course?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision has been taken by the Corporation to safeguard their financial interest as the Punjab National Bank has been refusing to honour bank guarantees issued by it.

(c) and (d). Punjab National Bank has refused to honour some bank guarantees issued in favour of Food Corporation of India for one reason or the other i.e. non-competence of the Branch Manager to accept the guarantees and presentation of the guarantees by FCI to the Bank for encashment after validity period.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Separate Cell for SCs/STs

1683. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any separate cell for the Welfare and recruitment of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Molasses

1684. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the excessive stocks of molasses at the sugar mills are causing a serious problem to the sugar mills;

(b) if so, the details regarding excessive stocks of molasses, State-wise;

(c) the strategies worked out for utilisation of molasses in various atternative options with best possible returns for different regions; and

(d) the present quantum of molasses and projection thereof for the next three years and utilisation pattern proposed in terms of national priorities?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). Due to high level of production during the sugar season 1994-95 and 1995-96, there has been corresponding increase in production of Molasses during these two seasons. The Statewise details of stocks of molasses are not maintained. However, the production of sugar and molasses during the last five years are given below :

(Fig. in Lakh Tonnes)

Season	Sugar	Molasses
1991-92	134.11	60.20
1992-93	106.09	43.50
1993-94	98.24	42.20
1994-95	146.43	64.96
1995-96	164.29 (provisional)	73.93 (estimated)

The molasses is mainly utilised for the manufacture of Alcohol. Some quantity is also used for manufacture of cattle feed, binding material in foundaries, etc. Further, the control on prices and distribution of molasses has been withdrawn in June, 1993.

[Translation]

Assistance for Combating Terrorism

1685. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the Central assistance sought for combating terrorism by each State during the current year; and

(b) the assistance provided by the Union Government so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). No such proposal seeking financial assistance specifically to combat terrorism has been received during the current financial year. However, a sum of Rs. 38.23 crores has been released so far during the current financial year to various States under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces.

Area Under Oilseeds Cultivation

1686. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the area of land under the oilseeds cultivation in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of the targets fixed/achieved for the oilseeds cultivation during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The area increase strategy adopted for Gujarat State is to increase area under cultivation of various oilseeds crops through sequential cropping, inter-cropping, replacement of low economy crops in problematic situations and through multiple cropping in irrigation conditions.

(c) The area target are not fixed. However, area coverage in Gujarat during Eighth Five Year Plan is as under :

(Lakh ha.)

1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
29.21	30.16	30.42	29.10

Theft of Milk Products

1687. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number cases of theft of milk products from the Delhi Milk Scheme plants have been reported during the last three years;

(b) whether complaints from some M.Ps. were also received in this regard during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of persons/employees apprehended so far in this connection and the action taken against them; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of theft cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (d). Disciplinary action has been initiated against employees for theft of milk and milk products from the Delhi Milk Scheme. The details are as follows :

Year	No. of employees against whom disciplinary action was initiated
1994	186
1995	143
1996	137

(b) and (c). A letter was received from a Member of Parliament regarding decline in milk supplies of DMS and cases of theft of milk.

(e) Various measures like deployment of additional security personnel, more surprise checks by senior officers and supervision of loading of milk and milk products by senior officers have been introduced.

[Translation]

Foodgrains Production

1688. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the advance estimates for the current Kharif season place the expected production at around 58 lakh tonnes for the five principal crops namely, paddy, ragi, jowar, maize and bajra in Karnataka State; and

(b) if so, the total estimated foodgrains production during the current year in the country, foodgrain-wise and State-wise?